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Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 02212 312332Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15 OES-06
SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 /115 W
----------312338Z 112398 /44
P 312323Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3001
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL
ALL OTHER AMCONSULS CANADA POUCH

UNCLAS OTTAWA 02212

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SENV, ENRG, CA
SUBJECT: PROBLEMS IN THE BEAUFORT SEA

1. TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL ON MARCH 31 REPORTED THAT CANADIAN ARCTIC RESOURCES COMMITTEE (PRIVATE RESEARCH GROUP) HAS REVIEWED DOME DRILLING EXPERIENCE IN BEAUFORT SEA. APPARENTLY IT HAS CONCLUDED THAT ENCOURAGING SIGNS OF MAJOR GAS ACCUMULATION IN BEAUFORT SEA, THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN TAPPED BY DOME PETROLEUM, ARE POSSIBLY FALSE ALARMS. COMMITTEE'S REPORT CLASSIFIES AS "INCONCLUSIVE" EVIDENCE OF ANY OIL AND GAS PROSPECTS OF UNDRILLED SECTION OF PROPOSED WELL BELOW 10,000 FEET. IT RECOMMENDS CABINET SHOULD ALLOW AT MOST ONLY ONE SEASON OF DRILLING IN BEAUFORT SEA AT A TIME, UNDER EVEN MORE STRICT SUPERVISION AND REGULATORY CONTROL THAN LAST YEAR. DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS (DINA) IS SEEKING APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE FROM CABINET TO ALLOW A FIVE-YEAR DRILLING PROGRAM.

2. AS RESULT OF COMMITTEE REPORT, DINA MINISTER ALLMAND WAS ASKED IN HOUSE OF COMMONS MARCH 30 QUESTION PERIOD
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WHETHER CANADIAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT REFER QUESTION OF OFFSHORE DRILLING TO APPROPRIATE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER REVIEW. ALLMAND SAID HE THOUGHT SUCH REVIEW WOULD BE TIME-CONSUMING: "...WE COULD NOT WAIT FOR PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THIS AGAIN AND THEN MAKE A DECISION. THAT WOULD BE TOO LATE..."

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3. COMMENT: WHILE GOC DOES NOT SEEM INTERESTED IN ANY DELAY IN DECISION-MAKING FOR BEAUFORT SEA DRILLING, THIS LATEST INTERCESSION MAY HAVE BEEN THE CAUSE FOR CABINET TO DELAY REVIEW OF BEAUFORT SEA DRILLING OPERATIONS TENTATIVELY UNTIL APRIL 21. ORIGINALLY IT WAS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 5. ENDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LITIGATION, OFFSHORE DRILLING, NATURAL GAS, PRESS COMMENTS, BEAUFORT SEA, PETROLEUM PIPELINES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977OTTAWA02212
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977033/aaaaabwk.tel
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Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
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Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3018146
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROBLEMS IN THE BEAUFORT SEA
TAGS: SENV, ENRG, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9e5f20b3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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